



City of Huntington Park Media Release

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City Clears Legal Challenge over Handling of City Council Vacancy

Court upholds Legality of Council Appointment, Reinforcing City's Commitment to Transparent Governance

HUNTINGTON PARK, CA — The City of Huntington Park welcomes the court's decision to deny the petition seeking to compel a special election for the recently filled City Council vacancy. This ruling affirms the City's lawful and diligent process in appointing Nancy Martiz to the City Council.

The court determined that the vacancy created by the vacancy of Councilmember Esmeralda Castillo was validly addressed through the Council's appointment process. Although the deadline to fill the vacancy was impacted by court-imposed temporary restraining orders, the court found that these legal obstacles effectively tolled the 60-day period for filling the vacancy under Government Code section 36512(b). As a result, the City's appointment of Ms. Martiz, made after the court of appeal issued an emergency stay of the restraining order, was timely and in full compliance with the law.

“This ruling is a clear affirmation of the City’s commitment to responsible governance and the principle that vacancies should be filled promptly to maintain continuity and stability in local government,” said Huntington Park Mayor Arturo Flores. “The appointment of Nancy Martiz whose qualifications and dedication to the community are well known reflects this commitment.”

Ms. Martiz will serve on the City Council until the next regularly scheduled general municipal election.

The City will remain focused on upholding transparency, accountability, and public trust in the City's governance processes.

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